



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Note: Audio comments from US Attorney Todd Graves are available in MP3 format, and may be downloaded from the district's Web site after 4 p.m. today at [www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)*

## **SEX OFFENDER SENTENCED TO 35 YEARS FOR CHILD PORN**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a California, Mo., man who is a registered sex offender pleaded guilty and was sentenced in federal court today on charges related to producing child pornography and transporting child pornography over the Internet.

**Lary Lee Petty, Jr.**, 32, of California, pleaded guilty to all of the charges contained in a Nov. 18, 2004, federal indictment and was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to 35 years in federal prison without parole, followed by supervised release for the rest of his life. The court also ordered **Petty** to forfeit to the government all property used in the commission of the offenses, including two computer towers, five computer hard drives, a 35 mm camera with film, a digital camera, and various computer disks and CD-ROMs.

**“Petty** is a dangerous sex offender who preyed on children. The best way to protect our community is to keep him locked away as long as possible,” Graves said.

“Tragically, as in this case, those who traffic in child porn often act out their fantasies by victimizing children,” Graves added. “That’s why my highest priority is prosecuting child exploitation in all its forms, to prevent more young victims from suffering for a lifetime.”

**Petty** has two 1994 criminal felony convictions, for raping a 13-year-old victim and sexually assaulting a 15-year-old victim, both in Moniteau County, Mo., for which he was sentenced to seven years in prison. **Petty** also has a 2001 criminal felony conviction for possession with intent to create a controlled substance in Moniteau County, for which he was

sentenced to seven years in prison.

By pleading guilty today, Graves said, **Petty** admitted that he enticed or coerced a young girl, a relative of his who was four years old at the time, to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing child pornography for distribution over the Internet between Jan. 27 and Nov. 27, 2003.

**Petty** also admitted that he published an advertisement in an Internet chat room called 100%PreTeenGirlsSexPics on Oct. 20, 2003, seeking and offering to receive and exchange child pornography. On the same day, **Petty** admitted that he both received and transported child pornography over the Internet. **Petty** also admitted that he was in possession of child pornography on March 15, 2004.

On Oct. 20, 2003, law enforcement officers in New York, N.Y., observed an f-serve operating in an Internet chat room called “100%PreTeenGirlsSexPics.” The f-serve is a computer program that allows the exchange of files between remote users via the Internet. **Petty** displayed an advertisement that would be visible to the other Internet users logged in to the chat room, Graves said, offering to distribute and exchange child pornography. **Petty** required others to upload images of child pornography to his f-serve before they would be allowed to download similar images from **Petty**’s collection, which was stored on his computer at his residence.

“More than a thousand images had been exchanged to and from **Petty**’s computer,” Graves said. “Among those images were a number of photos that have been identified in other child porn investigations. That’s the nature of the Internet – once a photo is uploaded, it can circulate across state and national boundaries for years to come, victimizing the child over and over again.”

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys John E. Cowles and Cynthia Phillips. It was investigated by the U.S. Secret Service Electronic Crimes Task Force in New York, N.Y., the U.S. Secret Service field office in Kansas City, Mo., the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Rockland County, N.Y., Sheriff’s Department and the Moniteau County, Mo., Sheriff’s Department.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)